# the colegian INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR KANSAS STATE IN INFERENCE COLEGIAN



VOL. 118 NO. 56





Thursday: High: 69 °F Low: 50 °F

Forgetful football fans The basketball season deserves fans' attention, says one sportswriter

14th time's the charm One man is sentenced to life in prison after 14 DUIs. A fair sentence?

Agri-leader One state official talks Kansas' role in the future of agriculture

#### Rodney McGruder embraces role as leader of basketball team



Mark Kern sports editor

people watch When Rodney McGruder play, they see a guy who is calm and never loses his composure on the court. It is that laid-back personality that appealed to Kris Joseph, former Syracuse Orange and current Boston Celtics forward, who became friends with McGruder after Joseph moved from Canada to Washington, D.C., to play basketball at Archbishop

Evert Nelson | Collegian Senior guard Rodney Mc-**Gruder** runs down the court during the Wildcats' game against Washburn on Oct.

Carroll High School.

"Being the new kid and a basketball player, I wanted to find someone who loved basketball as much as I did," Joseph said. "Even though Rod was a sophomore and I was a junior, he had played varsity ball his freshman year. I met him and we had that instant connection on and off the court. He definitely helped me transition from Canada to D.C., and someone I consider a great friend."

McGruder, who grew up in the D.C. area, had players he looked up to, but the player he admired the most had passed away before he was even born — Len Bias, a forward at the University of Maryland who died two days after he was selected by the Boston Celtics as the second overall pick in the 1986 NBA

"I obviously never got to meet him, but I know a lot of people that did," McGruder said. "My father was a friend of his, and my dad had nothing but positive things to say about him. He was such a good player and he had such a great passion for the game. I have seen a lot of highlights of him, and he is someone I try

to hone my game after."

Upon entering college, McGruder was rated a top-100 recruit by both Rivals. com and ESPN.com, but as former coach Frank Martin said, he was not ready for Division I basketball.

"He came in and he would be the first one to tell you,

he could not guard worth a lick," Martin said. "However, instead of sulking and being upset about not getting the playing time he wanted to early, he came and worked as hard as anyone on the team. That is when I knew that he

could be a special player."

Once Big 12 Conference play rolled around that season, he started to see the court more and showed what he could do in an upset over No. 1 Texas on Jan. 18, 2010. In that game, McGruder had 11 points and seven rebounds, and he showed Martin that he was ready to step up despite his quiet demeanor.

You have two types of

MCGRUDER | pg. 3

#### **Enthusiasm** of young voters down from 2008

Som Kandlur staff writer

As the nation goes to the polls today, both Presidential candidates will presumably be keeping a close eye on one specific voter demographic — the youth.

In the 2008 election, Barack Obama was able to win largely by being able to rally the voters between the ages of 18 and 29, leading to one of the largest youth voter turnouts ever for an election.

Four years later, however, much of the enthusiasm has

"I think as an American, it is my civil duty to vote. Sometimes it may seem like it's for nothing and that my vote is a tiny molecule in the system, but it is a privilege to be able to choose who you want to represent you and it's one that not everybody has, so we should cherish it."

Jacob Marcuson

freshman in civil engineering

It's true that the 'buzz' has come down a little bit," said Rich Vargo, clerk for the Riley County Elections Office.

This election's "FORWARD" poster for the Obama campaign is nowhere as popular as the iconic "HOPE" posters of 2008, and much of the excitement that surrounded the debates between the candidates has subsided.

The reasons for this drop in excitement can be attributed to various causes - the increasing student debt, coupled with a slowly increasing job rate and a declining standard of living has left the youth much

to resent. What remains to be seen is whether this apparent dissatisfaction will spark action on the part of young voters; recent survevs sav no.

A Gallup poll published April 26 showed that only 6 in every 10 of the population between the age of 18 and 29 are registered to vote, and a July 13 poll showed that 58 percent of that demographic said that they would definitely vote.

The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement has since indicated a marked increase in young voters' engagement in the election, according to a CIRCLE poll released Oct. 29, but Vargo believes that has only been limited to the key swing

"We can see the result of the voting drive on campus-es around Riley County and Kansas in general, and they have not been up to our expectation in the youth demographic," Vargo said.

Some young voters seem to have an attitude that their vote will not matter in non-swing

"I don't think me voting matters in a state like Kansas, which has always voted Republican," said a source that wished to remain anonymous. "So my vote is pretty much like a number in a file and I don't think it will change the outcome anyway, so it largely takes away my incentive to vote."

Vargo said that everyone's

YOUTH | pg. 5

## Election day focused on range of topics

**Darrington Clark** managing editor

Today, across the nation, college students are being asked, "What are the issues?"

The collegiate vote has been a target of this year's election candidates on the national, state and local levels. Presentations of all of these representatives have been viewed on television via commercials, televised debates and the familiar trash-talk advertisements run by opponents.

Some K-State students feel that none of those influences should determine a vote, on any level. Instead, three students feel that the collegiate vote should be an informed, researched one.

"I would urge students to think about the economy and job market that they will be entering very soon when they vote," said Collin Huerter, junior in political science. "The biggest voting issue for me right now is economic relief of the middle class, health care reform and of course the national deficit.

Huerter said he believes the dichotomy set up between Obama and Romney is media-fueled.

"Obama and Romney have several platform similarities, but the way they've presented themselves makes the decision seem black and white," Huerter said. "In the primaries, Romney did an excellent job framing the issues, and Obama did a good job handling the criticism put on him.

Obama's and Romney's strengths and weakness will make the presidential race unusually close, according to Diana Carlin, associate vice president for graduate education at St. Louis University and presidential debate researcher. Carlin said that her coverage of the debates didn't give her enough information to make an informed guess at the results.

"It's going to be very close," Carlin said. "If I could predict that, I could make a lot of money. Apparently the debates didn't settle it with the undecided voters.

Carlin said that voters who weren't familiar with the issues would rely most on what they heard from the

"If people choose Romney, it will be because of the clarity of the fivepoint plan he presented. It was simple and it sounded like a real plan," Carlin said. "If people are thinking about Obama, they'll think of the questions he raised against Romney."

Huerter thinks of Obama for a different reason.



Representatives from the Republican, Democratic and Libertarian parties debate in the Big 12 Room of the K-State Student Union on Oct. 8. After the debate, the representatives answered questions from the audience.

"Obama's 'Change' campaign was more than a campaign. It was a movement," Huerter said. "He got demographics that never voted before to come out and vote. With that kind of movement, he had to promise a lot to us, and people had been disap-

According to Huerter, while Obama faced the challenge of promise, Romney faced one of appearance. "Romney has been trying to get

ELECTION | pg. 6

#### Gamma Stroll Off raises funds for student with leukemia

Jakki Thompson staff writer

As tears rolled down her face, Sandra Bonilla, formerly a junior in family studies and human services, paused to collect her thoughts before she began to thank people who had attended the annual Gamma Stroll Off, sponsored by the Iota chapter of Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc.

"I want to thank the sisters I have in Sigma Lambda Gamma for supporting me," Bonilla said. "Even though I may not have been close to some of them, they have just continued to be so supportive to me. I also wanted to thank every organization that is here helping out and performing free of charge for this cause. I am just so grateful."

In July 2012, Bonilla was diagnosed with leukemia. She was 21 years old. Bonilla's biological older sisters, Mirna and Anna, are a part of Gamma. When Mirna and Anna approached Bonilla about using the proceeds from the Stroll Off to help alleviate some of the medical costs Bonilla has faced, she was ecstatic.

'To me, it came as a shock," Bonilla said. "I knew that these women had put so much into this event. I knew I was going to cry. It has just meant so much to

all of us." The Stroll Off, in which students perform routines to music in a line, is one of Gamma's largest events, usually hosted in the K-State Student Union Courtyard. This year, it was hosted in Forum Hall. It was also one of the largest Stroll Offs they have ever had due to the eight featured strolling groups.

The Gammas, Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity, the Eta Gamma chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., the Delta chapter of Phi Beta Sigma



Evert Nelson | Collegian

Darren "Face" Ricketts, senior in hotel and restaurant management, leads Phi Beta Sigma in their stroll during the annual Gamma Stroll Off in Forum Hall on Monday night, which raised funds for former student Sandra Bonilla.

Fraternity Inc., the Kappa Pi chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., the Beta Psi chapter of Alpha Kappa Psi Fraternity Inc., the Epsilon Mu chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. and the Delta Delta chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. all performed at the event.

Although the Stroll Off is an annual event at K-State, this was the first time the proceeds from the event have gone to benefit Bonilla and her fight against leukemia.

"The Stroll Off is something we do every year," said Mollie Robbins, graduate student in business administration and active alum in Sigma Lambda Gamma.

"This is something we host every year in October, even though this year it was pushed into early November. We usually give out a cash prize, but this year, we are donating all proceeds to the Bonilla

Eight different groups performed for three rounds. In between every group performance, raffle winners were announced. Different restaurants, businesses and shops donated prizes, gift certificates and free food for the event.

K-State alum Mirna Bonilla, one of Sandra Bonilla's two older sisters, said this event has made her love K-State even

"This event has shown how huge of an important part family plays both in the Manhattan and K-State communities," Mirna Bonilla said. "Multiple K-State alum have come back from wherever they are now, even if they don't live in Manhattan to come out to support this event and fellow sisters."

Sandra Bonilla said that cancer runs in their family, but no one has ever had leukemia. It was hard for their family to understand how their 21-year-old daughter could have a form of cancer that didn't even run in their family.

"We need to continue to spread awareness that anyone can be diagnosed with any disease at anytime," Mirna Bonilla said. "We need to continue to educate others because this was something we weren't necessarily educated on. We never thought something like this would happen to one of us."

This semester, Sandra Bonilla had to drop out of K-State due to the abundance of doctor's appointments and travel accompanied with those appointments. Living in between Manhattan and Liberal, Kan. — more than a five-hour drive from Manhattan — Sandra Bonilla said there has been little normalcy in her life. She said she has gone out to doctor's appointments in Wichita; Garden City, Kan.; and Salina.

Sandra Bonilla said she hopes to come back to K-State next semester now that she feels she has created consistency with her doctor's appointments.

"Thank you to all of the organizations who came out to perform solely for donations, and not for profit," Robbins said. "And to all of the businesses who helped us, we thank you. We are all so grateful for the support we have received from both the K-State and Manhattan communi-

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Yesterday's answer 11-6

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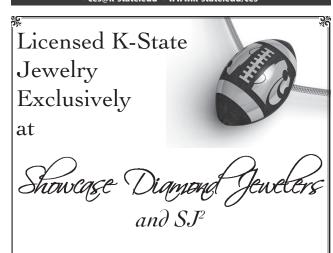
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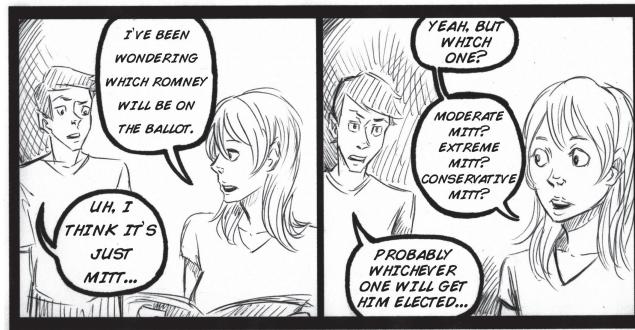
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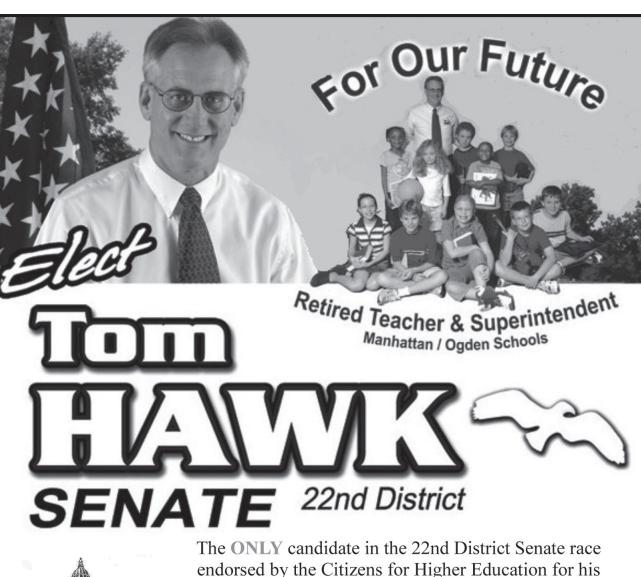
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**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL** 

## Huge second-half run sparks win over Washburn



With fellow senior guard ariah White suspended, Brittany Chambers had an even more crucial role to play Monday night. After three early fouls, Chambers was able to get into a rhythm, nearly finishing with a triple-double with 19 points, nine rebounds and eight assists as the Wildcats defeated the Washburn Lady Blues 75-42 at Bramlage Coliseum.

Jacob Dean Wilson | Collegian

Freshman guard Brianna Craig jumps up for a shot during the Wildcats' Monday 74-42 exhibition victory against the visiting Washburn University Lady Blues in Bramlage Coliseum. Craig finished the game second in scoring with 17 points.

Both teams struggled early. K-State led 12-8 with 11:46 left in the half when Chambers picked up her third foul, forcing head coach Deb Patterson to bench her. The offense continued to sputter, and Patterson decided to put Chambers back in with those three fouls.

After the game, Patterson talked about the decision process to bring Chambers back into the first half with three fouls.

"We were going through little segments of lulls," Patterson said. "We are so new and young to what we are trying to do offensively. We had a lot of new faces out there. We really put her back in to have a little bit of continuity before we went in to the half. I wanted our team to go in with the best chance of getting our step back a little bit on the offensive end."

That is exactly what they did, as the offense exploded with five

3-pointers in the first three minutes of the second half to extend an 11-point lead at the start of the half into 43-19 with 17:14 left in the game. Chambers talked about what it was like to see the offense catch fire, saying this is how the Wildcats are going to need to play this season.

"I think the first five minutes of both halves felt really good," Chambers said. "I think as we get more into shape and more of our players playing in the games, these streaks are going to extend longer minutes until hopefully we put together a whole game. It was so great to feel how we want to feel like for those five to ten minutes, and it gives us a lot of hope if we continue to play and build off that, we have a high

ceiling." The Wildcats also got a very strong performance from guard Brianna Craig, who scored 17 points, including hitting four-of-

still has to go out and do his job.

"Obviously, Rodney had a great year last season, but he

has to go and prove it. Other

players are going to go even

harder against him, so he will

have to take his game to anoth-

er level," Weber said. "However,

after watching him practice, I

am very confident that he will

do what is necessary for him to

take his game to another level."

for the Boston Celtics, is not shy

when he talks about his expec-

tations for his best friend this

"I am expecting big things," Joseph said. "I have known

Rod for a long time, and I know

that he wants to be the best.

With the way he finished the

Joseph, who is now a reserve

five from the 3-point line. Chambers was very impressed with how her freshman teammate

"She was very solid; she hit four-of-five threes. The thing that I was impressed with from her was that in the first game, like all of us, she forced things," Chambers said. "Tonight, she didn't force anything. She was smart and didn't play like a freshman tonight, which is what we need out of her."

Sophomore Ashia Woods was the other K-State player to reach double figures with 12 points as the Wildcats wrapped up their exhibition season.

The Wildcats will open the regular season on Friday at 5:30 p.m. as they take on the Idaho State Bengals at Bramlage Coliseum. The game will be the first of a double-header, as the men's team hosts North Dakota at 8

#### MCGRUDER | Senior faces lofty expectations after successful 2011 season

Continued from page 1

leaders: ones that do it by example and ones that are more of your vocal leaders," Martin said. "With Rod, he was definitely someone that prefers to go out and do things the right way rather than get in a teammate's face if he messes up. Both ways can work, and in Rod's case, guys just watched how he went out and took care of business and it made them push themselves that much harder."

This attitude paid off as Mc-Gruder took his game to the next level in his junior year,

when he averaged 15.8 points and 5.2 rebounds per game and was also named All-Big 12 Second Team. In the second round of the NCAA tournament, McGruder scored 30 points to help the Wildcats advance over Southern Mississippi. That win matched K-State against the Syracuse Orange, led by his old friend Kris Joseph.

McGruder scored 15 points as the Wildcats fell to the Orange, but Joseph could not have been more proud of his

"Obviously, with us winning I was excited, but deep inside, I was hurting for Rod," Joseph said. "With his performance in the previous round and how hard he played, it was an honor to go up against him. I knew going into the game that he was going to give it everything he had, and just to go up against him was something I will never

Fans had big expectations for this season's experienced team, but those expecta-tions appeared to be derailed when coach Martin headed to South Carolina to become the school's new coach and Bruce Weber took over the helm at K-State. Martin said it was not easy leaving this team, especially because of his relationship with McGruder.

It was hard. He had given so much and my heart hurt that I would not be his coach this season," Martin said. "It was tough, but we both understand that we both have a season coming up. I still talk to him on occasion and will be trying to catch as much of their games as I can, but Bruce is their coach. Coaching Rod was something that I will never forget and I wish him nothing but the best in the future."

After McGruder's successful junior year, he enters his

season last year, he was playing final season with even greater expectations. He was one of as good as he ever has. I fully only three players to be unaniexpect him to build off that and mously named a All-Big 12 play even better, and I think both him and K-State are going First Team. Coach Weber said that McGruder has earned the to surprise a lot of people." preseason accolades, but he

Jordan Henriquez, another senior on the Wildcat team, said McGruder has taken his game to another level.

"Rod, for really the first time I have ever seen, is becoming more vocal," Henriquez said. "If he sees anybody not doing something right at practice, he will go up there and help them figure it out to where they won't make the same mistake. I am very excited for the season to start, and I look forward to us having a great senior season."

When asked about the team, McGruder was not hesistant to talk about his expectations.

"I think we can be great," he said. "We have a lot of guys back, and with the focus that we have, I truly believe that we

#### K-State fans should not overlook basketball team



With a No. 2 BCS ranking, a Heisman Trophy leading candidate and a legendary head coach, it's pretty easy to see how someone could get caught up in the excitement that surrounds K-State football. However, there's another sport that has recently tipped off that deserves it's own fair share of enthusiasm.

Basketball. You know, that other game we're kind of good

Maybe it's just these early games against inferior opponents or the result of having a championship caliber football season, but hoops chatter around campus has been deader than Geno Smith's Heisman campaign lately.

But we're chasing championships in football. We can't be expected to show excitement for two sports at the same time, right? Wrong.

While other schools may see the relationship between bas-ketball and football as mutually exclusive, K-State has been able

to find balance in both.

Sure, basketball enthusiasm won't be a problem come mid-January when the football season ends, but fans need to show support for both programs in this current period of overlapping seasons. They need to appreciate the fact that our athletic department has found success in multiple sports, because for a lot of schools that isn't the case.

It can be easy to forget about that game with the bouncing ball and hoops when we're in the thick of a national title hunt for football. So here's a friendly reminder for those who have forgotten: it's a pretty good time

for K-State basketball as well. Fresh off of a trip to their third consecutive NCAA tournament, this team returns four out of five starters from last year's squad, including the program's all-time shot-blocking leader in Jordan Henriquez and preseason first team all-Big 12 player Rodney McGruder. It doesn't take a college basketball expert to see a recipe for suc-

Recent achievements aren't the only reasons to be excited about the return of basketball; how about the program's history? With 25 NCAA tournament appearances, 19 conference championships and 4 final four berths, Wildcat basketball has a tradition of winning that's been established since before the days games were played in Ahearn Field House.

So why has the student section looked so deserted in the first two exhibition games? It couldn't have been more than half way filled in either of the contests. I know that these early season games against the likes of Emporia State and Washburn aren't exactly headliners, but it's still worth coming out and seeing how the team looks under new head coach Bruce

Some fans seem to think that basketball season doesn't begin until the football season ends.

which is definitely not the case. Granted, the meat of the hoops season isn't seen until conference play starts up in January, but the apparent mindset that only one sport can be supported at a time is both shallow and confusing. Why wouldn't anyone want to keep up with how their traditionally successful basketball team is doing for the first two months of the season?

Wildcat fans should continue cherishing this year's football season; it's been a whirlwind of excitement within the K-State community, and rightfully so. But remember to spread that enthusiasm around to another sport that has been a staple of K-State athletics not only in recent years, but for decades. Basketball season has begun, and for some fan bases that means everything or nothing, but for K-State fans, it just means another opportunity to support a quality and successful program.

Donald Pepoon is a sophomore in business administration. Please send comments to sports@

#### **Bob Reader** for Kansas Senate

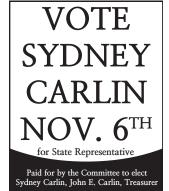
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### Obama, Romney have different, beneficial tax plans

the collegian



Both candidates have truly different plans for the economy; we can only presume how these plans will affect us until one is actually implemented. It is worth it to note that on paper, both policies are truly functional and seem to benefit the country as a whole in the long-run. The only thing most people disagree with is who would be making those sacrifices to be able to attain set goals.

In a nutshell, Obama plans to incorporate policies which would increase taxes on companies and individuals while Romney plans to do the opposite. Obama would raise taxes on investors, which would reduce the availability of funds a company's executive managers are allowed to use and implement on further investments. This would in turn elevate the current tax on labor for all workers in the U.S.

By doing this, companies would presumably react by reducing the wages and hours for employees, as the renewing contracts would have to adjust to newly established policies demanding additional tax. This taxing also includes the tax planning implementation which eliminates tax breaks placed upon companies for outsourcing, creating jobs internally while reducing unemployment for the workforce and adding funds to the treasury from the taxation of these newly employed individuals.

The uber-simplistic model would be: everyone is a tad less rich, however the federal government is willing to provide more due to this newfound wealth in

On the other hand, Romney would shrink the aforementioned taxes, which would allow firms to spend more. Wages could potentially rise as the diminished tax coupled with a little pressure from

employees might make way for this little Although I do believe that President boost while hiring extra employees with Obama's views are often fairer and the newly reassigned capital. It is worth noting that firm spending in the past has been a sign of economic well-being, due to the company investing the added earnings to finance in ventures or equipment, which will serve for more income David Mejia is a sophomore in marketing. Please send The uber-simplistic model would be: everyone is a bit richer, but the governcomments to opinion@ ment will be slightly more reluctant to kstatecollegian.com. lob available funds to you. Analysis from the self-described nonpartisan group called Tax Foundation that specializes in tax analysis said that

loses \$10. Under Romney's plan, for every dollar of tax revenue lost, the economy gains \$8. This means that although the country will be getting more money from taxes, companies will be less productive due to high restrictions and less money availability will result in less products being bought, which will turn into less profits for the firm and less jobs available in that area. Worst-case scenario, a slipperyslope will ensue.

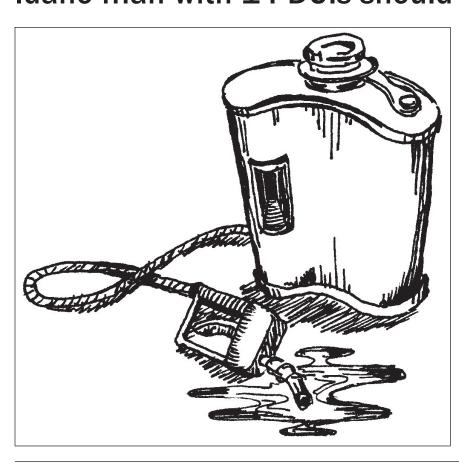
"for every dollar of tax revenue raised

under the Obama plan, the economy

in the future.



### Idaho man with 14 DUIs should have been tried for attempted murder





After being convicted for his 14th DUI, Terry Ash has been sentenced to life in prison.

In the last 32 years of the 55-year-old man's life, Ash, of Boise, Idaho, has been charged with 14 DUIs and was finally taken seriously when he crashed near Swan Falls Road in Boise on Sept. 4, 2011.

What I have a hard time comprehending is why it took 14 DUIs for him to be sentenced to life in prison.

How do you let something like this slide not once, not twice, not thrice, but 14 times?

This man is clearly a danger to this community; he should have been imprisoned a long time ago because apparently, he did not learn his lesson or care for the lives of those

around him.

Ash was basically driving impaired for his entire adult life. According to an Oct. 17

article published by the Idaho Statesman, Ash began drinking when he was just 6 years old and has never been treated for mental health issues, including depression.

Then again, this should have nothing to do with why he was not imprisoned sooner.

Also, on top of the fact that the legal system let this slide 14 times, there is still a chance that he might get out of prison.

If so, he will be on felony probation for the rest of his life, which is absurd, as some would consider this attempted murder.

According to the Idaho Statesman article, Fourth District Judge Pat Owen told Ash, "It is almost miraculous, Mr. Ash, you have not managed to kill somebody or yourself... You have been driving impaired your entire adult life. My concern is about protecting the public. This is a sad, sad case."

This case should be considered as attempted murder, because even though he was not literally plotting the murder of someone, he was perfectly aware of what he was doing and that it was dangerous, but he decided to drive impaired anyway.

monday, november 5, 2012

"I agree I still have issues to deal with, but I don't agree I am totally hopeless," Ash said in court. "I don't believe I would put myself in that position again."

It is great that Ash still has hope for himself; maybe that will allow others to have hope for him as well. However, how can his word be taken seriously after the 14th offense?

Maybe his statement of not putting himself in that position again has to do with the fact that he was actually imprisoned permanently this time. Nonetheless, this man is a menace to society who should not have a chance to freely roam the streets of Boise, Ídaho.

Michelle Bertran is a sophomore in journalism and mass communications. Please send comments to opinion@ kstatecollegian.com.

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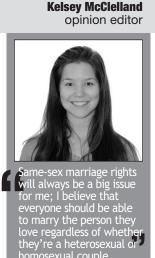
#### What is the most important issue for you in the this year's elections?







**Karen Ingram** 









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#### YOUTH | Students share mixed reactions to upcoming elections

Continued from page 1

vote does matter, and Democrats are represented in Kansas.

"If you take Riley County for example, while the majority of the population is registered Republican, there is still a Democrat, Sydney Carlin, representing them," Vargo said. "Even though the registered voters outnumber the Democrats 2 to 1, the fact that the elections come down to single votes and recounts shows how crucial every single vote is."

However, there has been a marked increase in the number of registered voters in Riley County, according to

"The number of the registered voters may not have been up to our expectations, but they have been higher than they were for the previous elections, so we will have to wait and see how many people show up," Vargo said.

Jacob Marcuson, freshman in civil engineering, said he sees exercising his right to vote as a duty.

'I think as an American, it is my civil duty to vote," Marcuson said. "Sometimes it may seem like it's for nothing and that my vote is a tiny molecule in the system, but it is a privilege to be able to choose who you want to represent you and it's one that not everybody has,

so we should cherish it."

Jared Yost, freshman in civil engineering, said he thinks a lack of interest in voting might be due to the youth demographic's impression of political platforms being used to make big promises that later go unfulfilled, leading to increased disappointment.

"Politicians are never good at keeping promises anyway and the last four years have been no different. After the promise of so much hope and change, there is a very limited improvement in the situation," said Jared Yost, freshman in civil engineering. "For me, personally, it has become very difficult to distinguish between what they actually believe and what they are just saying to

The current campaign, including the GOP primaries, is considered by some as extremely negative, with issues such as obscure religious influences and allegedly illegitimate birth certificates overshadowing more significant issues.

"It seems a lot like middle-school arguments where people make a big deal about nothing - both parties are ignoring the core arguments and overstressing really petty issues and blatantly criticizing each other for it," said another source who also wished to remain

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#### Students strive to maintain motivation, study habits for remainder of semester

Jakki Thompson staff writer

It is almost the end of the semester; students might feel defeated coming out of midterms, whether those meant exams, projects, papers or a mixture of them all. Studying, writing, creating, planning, executing — midterms are similar to finals in that students work so hard to try to stay ahead of the game in their classes, yet they are left feeling overwhelmed and exhausted.

"Midterms were crazy for me," said Hillary L'Ecuyer, junior in interior design. "I had two studio projects due, as well as two normal exams. It was not a fun time for me."

Even though L'Ecuyer felt overwhelmed with her midterm projects and exams, she took time out for herself. She said she plans fun weekends with friends and family members on Friday and Saturday and leaves Sunday to school work. She also works for three to four hours at a time then takes a break, which she suggested students do while studying. She said she thinks breaks work well.

"Get sleep," L'Ecuyer said. "Don't sweat if a grade doesn't come back as high as you want it. And don't be afraid to treat yourself to the nicer things in life, for example chocolate,

"Studying with other people motivates you to push harder for whatever you want."

> Stephanie Samaniego sophomore in kinesiology

coffee, the occasional alcoholic beverage. You know, the stuff that is bad

The biggest step she suggested to people was not to be afraid to reach out for help and support. She said whether it is friends, family, professors or classmates, K-State is a family and we need to be there for each other.

Stephanie Samaniego, sophomore in kinesiology, said time management was one of the hardest things about midterms week. She said managing her time was incredibly hard and she constantly felt like she had too much going on.

Samaniego suggested using planners to help stay organized.

"I think a good way to do something is to plan to do it with someone," Samaniego said. "Studying with other people motivates you to push harder for whatever you want. You are more likely to slack off unless you meet up with someone. Holding each other accountable is a huge thing that really helps me when it comes to studying and finishing my work."

Motivation is a key concept for students when they need to be accountable for studying and doing homework. Will Harmon, sophomore in English and creative writing, said he didn't have a hard time with the one midterm he had.

"I stay motivated by staying on top

of things and get them done as early as I can," Harmon said. "If I can stay away from rushing and stressing, I can stay away and ignore the demotivation creature that likes to sit in our cars."

Harmon echoed L'Ecuyer, saying that staying positive about exams, papers and studying is one of the most beneficial things one can do. Harmon also said people need to know what to work on for their classes.

Every student has their own ideas of how to study and most react differently to the amount of stress midterms and finals bring.

"If you believe you will do well, you will," Harmon said.

Evert Nelson | Collegian

Taylor Haak (center), freshman
in animal sciences and industry,
takes a break from studying in
the Great Room in Hale Library
on Monday night to check his



#### State secretary of agriculture discusses future of industry, Kansas' leadership

Zach Foley staff writer

The most recent installment in the Upson Lecture Series welcomed Dale Rodman, secretary of the Kansas Department of Agriculture, to the Grand Ballroom in the K-State Student

Rodman took his position after retiring from Cargill Inc. after 37 years. He was appointed by Gov. Sam Brownback in January 2011 despite his lack of a political background.

"I wanted to come promote agriculture in Kansas," Rodman said about why he took the position. "It is the largest industry in the state."

Despite agriculture's status as the largest industry in the state, Rodman thinks things need to change because the world is changing dramati-

"In the next 50 years we

must produce as much food as we have in the last 1,000 [years]," Rodman said. "250 new customers are born ev-

Rodman said more food must be produced because of the growing demand of the world. According to Rodman, the population will exceed 9 billion by 2050 despite a downtrend in birthrate.

The odds are in Kansas' favor to become a leader in agriculture, Rodman said.

Rodman listed a number of advantages, noting that Kansas has the second-largest amount of farmland in the U.S., good animal health, a conducive climate and a central location.

cellphone.

Rodman also, however, pointed out the disadvantages that could work against Kansas' position as the forefront of agriculture. These disadvantages include labor shortages, 20 percent of the state population living in a

the mix with many budgetary

and infrastructure concerns

still left to be decided upon

here in Kansas. There is a lot

of opportunity for Kansas to

agriculture and lack of awareness.

"[We need to make Kansas] a fly-in zone, not fly-over," Rodman said.

Alex Reese, sophomore in agricultural economics, said he agreed with Rodman's strong feelings about the future of agriculture.

"If we don't change then we are losing an opportunity to use crops to help the world," Reese said. While not everyone in attendance agreed with what Rodman had to say, most took something new away from the lecture.

"I gained a different perspective from a specialized point of view," said Joe Hong, senior in horticulture.

Before he opened the room up to questions, Rodman's concluding words emphasized that we need to make Kansas the leader in agricul-

### **ELECTION | Candidates passionate, offer wide array of proposals, platforms**

#### Continued from page 1

away from his appearance as a flip-flopper," Huerter said. "He used to campaign very conservative, now that we're on the general elections he's pulled back and gone more moder-

Huerter said that these issues are what is focusing his decision for the presidential election, but K-State students are applying the same decision factors to more local govern-

ment elections as well.

"The Manhattan area is lucky in regards that this year's election season is full of lots of passionate candidates," said Chase Downing, regional chairman for Kansas Federation of College Republicans and sophomore in business marketing and sales in an email interview. "Students should absolutely not only pay attention to local elections, but get involved, go meet those who are running, ask the hard

Ashton Archer, K-State College Republicans president and senior in mechanical engineering, agreed with Downing. Archer said that the local elections impact student life in more ways than commonly thought.

"They do a lot of things concerning school funding, teas, education and roads," Archer said. "When health care reform changes come out, how will they be handled? These are local decisions."

Downing and Archer identi-

fied the race between Democratic state representative incumbent Sydney Carlin and her Republican opponent Lee Modesitt as a close one. "Both offer differing plans

for Kansas families and how

they see best to represent

Manhattan residents as well as K-State," Downing said. Carlin's experience in the office gives her an edge, according to Archer. But, Modesitt's plan for the house seat,

including education and gov-

ernment reform, may provide a fresh outlook that people prefer.

"Carlin is the incumbent; she has experience and people know her, which is important," Archer said, "but it's hard to know what local candidates can control."

is important," return to fiscal health while still funding its obligations it has towards its residents. A major tone that rings out on each

"I know it sounds easier to just walk into the booths and vote, but you should see which candidate really works in your best interest."

Ashton Archer K-State College Republicans president,

senior in mechanical engineering

Downing said that the issues being debated in the local elections have the power to change the fiscal landscape of the area, depending on the student vote.

"Economic concerns, tax policy and job creation compose the foundation of most platforms of candidates running locally," Downing said. "Education also finds itself in level of politics, local, state and national, is how our generation will handle the great challenges that lay ahead."

Archer encouraged students to stay involved and informed.

"You can go to the state of Kansas website and get a sample ballot, it's really cool. You can look up who's on the ballot this way," Archer said. Kansas's website, kansas. gov, also includes information on each candidate's position.

"I'd encourage everyone to take five minutes and look up the candidates before you go to the polls," Archer said.

Archer also suggested attending the Union Program Council-hosted election watch party tonight in the Union Grand Ballroom from 7 to 11 p.m.

"From what I've seen, they will have trivia games, refreshments and prizes," said Erika Davis, junior in psychology and summer co-chair of UPC. "They will have TVs on ABC, NBC, many programs will be running to see what's going on from different perspectives."

Davis also said that the event will feature an interactive map of the 50 states. As the states are filled with blue and red on TV, participants can fill in the map at the party.

"They're trying to make it more engaging," Davis said. "I hope there's a large turnout. People may have other plans to watch it, but I hope to see a couple hundred come out."

While the presidential elections hold a substantial amount of weight, Downing urged students not to lose sight of the local issues.

"The presidential race is

much more attractive and maybe more fun or more popular to talk about with friends and family, but in the grand scheme of things, local elections carry a great importance," Downing said.

Archer also wanted students to understand that local elections have the power to change just as much for K-State students as the national elections do.

"Everyone gets excited about the presidential election and they don't research the state and local election," Archer said. "I know it sounds easier to just walk into the booths and vote, but you should see which candidate really works in your best interest."







